Chapter. 89
Child of Sangatsu Town

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before Takahashi-kun left on his trip to Kouchi.

'LET'S ALL GO GET MONJA TOGETHER!'

Kiriyama-kun invited us

T/N: MONJA IS A TYPE OF PAN-FRIED BATTER FILLED WITH VARIOUS INGREDIENTS.

もんじゃ 次郎

SO,

UH,

CONGRATS ON GRADUATING, YOU TWO.

AND I WANNA WISH YOU GOOD LUCK AT KOUCHI PRIVATE SCHOOL, TAKAHASHI-KUN.

UHH...

Seems to have gotten even bigger .....

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AH, EXCUSE ME,

BEFORE YOU GO ON...

KIRIYAMA-SAN,

CONGRATULATIONS ON MAKING IT UP TO B-2!!

That's awesome!!

HUH?!

AH...

CONGRATULATIONS, KIRIYAMA-KUN!

OH,

WAH! THANK YOU.

Looks like she just got it

SFX: GUIHH GOHH

GRAMPS WAS REAL HAPPY ABOUT IT.

HE COULDN'T BELIEVE HE KNEW SOMEBODY IN B-CLASS.

IT LOOKS LIKE HE CAN'T CONTAIN WANTING TO BOAST ABOUT IT.

Yahooo! My sensei made it to B-class!

Kiriyama-kun is a future meijin!

SFX: DONN

UWAA... I'M GRATEFUL FOR THAT.

AN, THEN,

I'M SORRY I LOST SO EARLY IN THE MHK CUP THAT WAS JUST HELD...

I know he was looking forward to that...

NAW, GRAMPS IS ALREADY GETTING HYPED FOR LATER.

'NEXT IS THE SHISHI-OU CHAMPIONSHI-----P!!'

Okay everyone, sorry for the wait!

Salmon monja and some pollack mochi with cheese.

THANKS!

Thank you very much!

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I WANT
TO BE A PRO SOON, TOO.
MY MOM AND DAD ARE REALLY HAPPY HE'S PERKING UP.
YOU'RE TOTALLY MY GRAMPA'S IDOL, KIRIYAMA-SAN.
HE'S ALWAYS TALKING ABOUT HOW AMAZING PROS ARE...
HE'S HAD A TENDENCY TO SLEEP IN A LOT, BUT LATELY HE'S BEEN POKING HIS HEAD INTO THE LOCAL SHOGI CLUB.
将棋倶楽部
he said 'soon.'
Not 'someday,'
'I want to be a pro'.
AH,
I'LL DO IT.
I see.
ARE YOU SURE?
YEAH, JUST LET ME HANDLE IT.
In Takahashi-kun's mind, being a pro has changed from being a 'dream,' to a 'goal.'

T/N: KOSHIEN IS THE STADIUM WHERE THE JAPANESE HIGH SCHOOL NATIONAL BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS ARE HELD.
SFX: SZZZZ... KAH KAH KAN KAH
A GUY WHO HELPED ME OUT A LOT IN MY LITTLE LEAGUE DAYS IS WORKING AS A SUPERVISOR AT TAKACHI PRIVATE SCHOOL NOW.
—SO HE INVITED ME.
I WANT TO RAISE MY CHANCES OF GOING TO KOSHIEN AS HIGH AS I CAN.
SO I DECIDED TO GO TO WHERE THAT SUPERVISOR IS.
...AND ON TOP OF THAT, THERE'RE DOZENS OF SCHOOLS.
THERE'S TOO BIG A TALENT POOL FOR INFIELDERS.
ALL THE GOOD PLAYERS AND NOTED NAMES IN BASEBALL GATHER IN TOKYO.
rising up with a sizzle just like always.
and the that great smell
Takahashi-kun's skillful use of his hands, the clanging of the trowels,
Takahashi-kun will be gone.
— But soon in Sangatsu Town, this spring,

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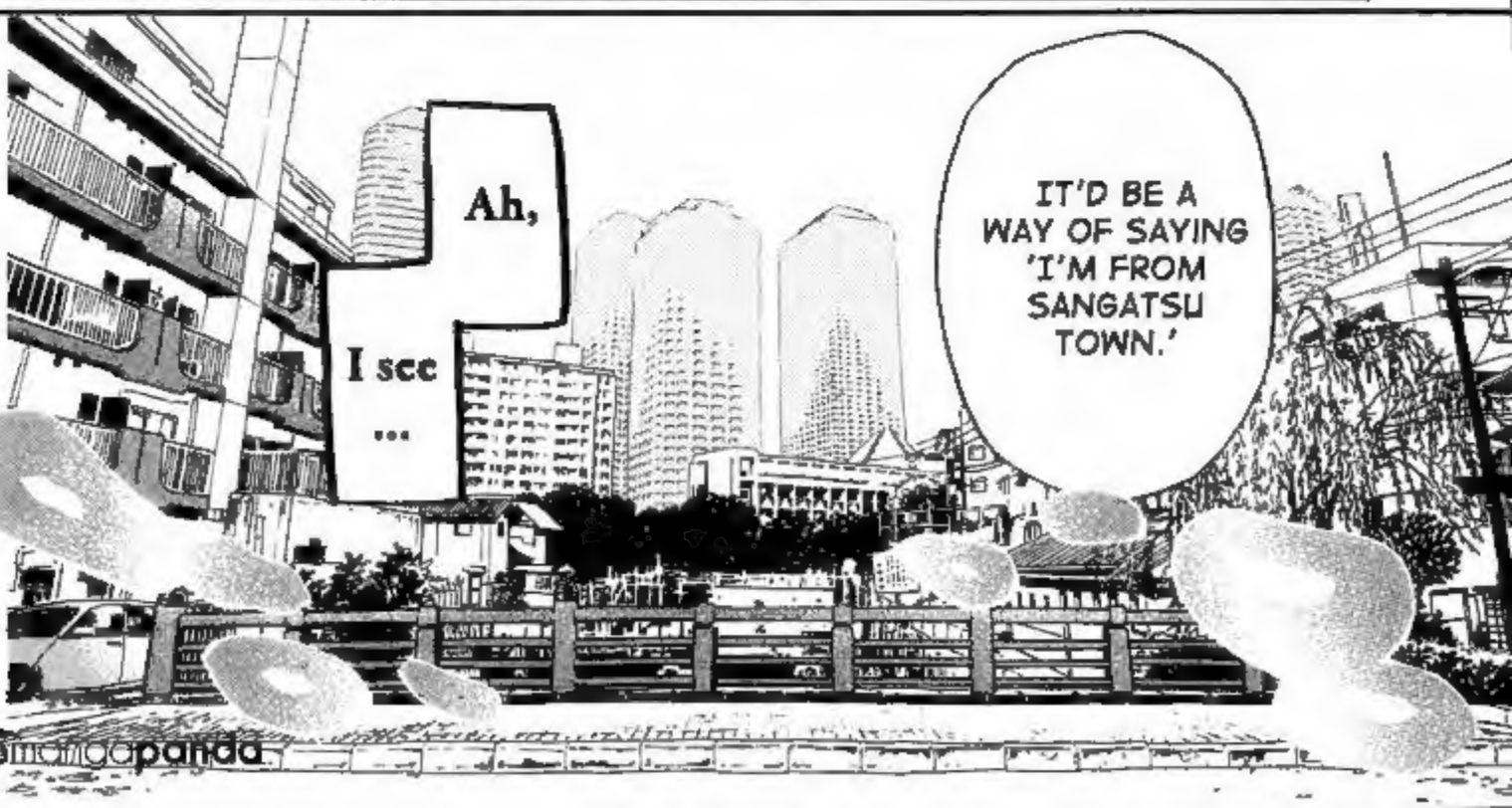
SFX: JAN KAN JUWAAA (SZZZ)
SFX: JYUUU JYUUU... (SZZZ SZZZ)
AND I CAN GET ALL THE INGREDIENTS AT ANY 'OL SUPERMARKET.
...Ah. I might have to bring the sliced squid with me.
THEY SAID THEY'RE GOING TO HAVE A WELCOME PARTY FOR ME AT THE DORMS,
SO I THOUGHT I'D MAKE THEM SOMETHING AS A WAY TO SAY HELLO.
IF THEY DON'T, I'LL MAKE MY OWN.
I'LL JUST NEED A HOT PLATE.
DO THEY HAVE MONJA OVER THERE IN KOUCHI, TOO?


Ah,
I see
...
IT'D BE A WAY OF SAYING 'I'M FROM SANGATSU TOWN.'

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All of a sudden

That's one thing that
EVEN IF THEY'VE HEARD OF MONJA, I'LL BET THEY'VE NEVER EATEN IT BEFORE.
MHM.
THAT SOUNDS LIKE A GOOD IDEA.
We are kids of San-gatsu Town.

I truly felt like I was going to cry.

OF COURSE!
AH, BUT GRAMPA TOLD ME TO 'AT LEAST TAKE SOME TROWELS WITH YOU.'
no matter where we go, will remain the same.
YEAH, I'M SURE IT'LL BE GREAT IF YOU MAKE IT, TAKAHASHI-KUN.

He really was

They might have big ones though.
YEAH, YOU'VE GOT A POINT. I DON'T THINK THEY'D SELL THESE LITTLE PEELER ONES THERE.
HE SAID 'THERE'S NOW WAY THEY'LL SELL THOSE THERE.'
SOME BAMBOO ONES FOR USING WITH HOTPLATES.

going to leave soon.

It really made me happy

YEAH.
IT'S TOO BAD I'M GONNA MISS IT.
THAT'S THE DAY OF THE CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL, ISN'T IT?
NEXT SATURDAY.
WHEN ARE YOU GOING?
so I held my breath.
about to cry a bunch of times
I was

that in the end, Rei-chan had been able to talk with him and invite him.

—But there was no way
This time is precious.
THANKS!
WELL, GOOD LUCK!
IS THAT SO?
THIS TIME WE'RE GONNA HAVE TWO FLAVORS OF SWEET RED-BEAN SOUP!!
YEAH.
KAWAMOTO, ARE YOU GOING TO DO ANOTHER STAND?

I'm really glad that we got to eat monja together.

I really am.

— And so
the morning
of the cherry
blossom
festival
arrived.
HOW ABOUT WE GET STARTED?!!
PREPARATIONS ARE COMPLETE.
OOO-
KAY.
Mikazuki Temple
Walnut Rice Flour Dumplings
Azuki Rice Flour Dumplings
Sweet Red Bean Soup
三日月堂
300 YEN
お茶

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Welcoooome!
Would you like to try some of the Mikazuki Temple's sweet red-bean soup with rice flour dumplings?
Mikazuki Temple
三日月堂
Walnut Rice Flour Dumplings
Adzuki Rice Flour Dumplings
Bean soup
300
OH, MIKAZUKI TEMPLE'S COME UP WITH SOMETHING SCRUMPTIOUS AGAIN I SEE!
IT'S THICK, SWEET AND SALTY, IS IT?
I'M GLAD YOU LIKE IT!
IT HAS WHITE MISO IN IT.
This'll sure warm me up. The side of the river is still so cold...
OH, THEN
I'LL HAVE A WALNUT SOUP.

YES! IT'S GOING GREAT!
ギラ ギラ
IT'S STILLY CHILLY OUT SO IT LOOKS LIKE WE STRUCK GOLD GOING WITH SOMETHING WARM!
SOOO, HOW'RE THINGS GOIN'?!
IF WE'RE RUNNIN' LOW ON FLOUR DUMPLINGS, GIMME SOME NOTICE!
I'll boil up as many as ya want!
Tupperware containing the cash from sales
HALF HALF

SFX: GYAGYRA (EL ATENINO) ZUSSHI (HEAVY) NYUUUN
IF WE GET TO THAT POINT,
THEN THE SECRET WORD WILL BE 'MOLASSES'!!
Under-stood!!
ROGER !!

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'GOOD LUCK!'
I'M SURE.
.....
YEAH.
ARE YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANNA GO SAY GOODBYE?
Yes!! Coming right up!
Excuse meee! Two walnut flour dumplings pleaaase!
Taka-hashi-kun...
I'm going to give it my all here.
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REALLY?
LAST NIGHT SHE JUST SUDDENLY CAME OUT WITH IT!!
It couldn't be... Did she cut her hair because a small love of hers ended?!
WAIT ...
THAT'S A MAJOR EVENT IN A YOUNG GIRL'S LIFE, ISN'T IT?!
SUCK
AAAAAS
It's so bitter
Swee
!!
HUUH ?!
HINA CUT HER HAIR?!
Could this be that legendary
SUCK
W-WELL I GUESS THAT'S FINE, IF YOU WANT TO.
HUH ?!
I THINK I'M GONNA CUT MY HAIR
ONEI-CHAN

I want to cut my hair to give a proper goodbye to my childhood self

—and to take a step forward to being a new me...

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Hinahhh! Oh... It's so bitter-sweet!!
One-chan feels like sugar is about to spray out of her mouth!
MY LITTLE SISTER... IS JUST BEING SO CUTE!!
AAAHH
I GUESS THIS IS YOUTH!!
IT JUST... IT JUST MAKES ME SO WORRIED! IT'S SO AWKWARD!!
A POEM LIKE THAT RUNNING THROUGH HER HEAD...
—I JUST KNOW SHE HAD
ERR
Hina will totally self-destruct, you know. From embarrassment...
Akari? Uh...
Do NOT talk to Hina about this, okay?
I'm home!
Hiiinaahh!
How'd it go at the beauty parlor?
...HUH? WHAT'S WRONG?
SFX: DONYORI (CLOUDY)
SFX: HYOI
It was a failure...
I'm not going outside anymore.
H-HEY, NOW, LET ME SEE.
I'll start high school in the second semester...
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A...
AH, HINA...?
IT-IT'S FINE...
YEAH...
HOW SHOULD I PUT IT...
SFX: FURU FURU (SHAKING)
ちんまり...
YOU LOOK VERY MIDDLE SCHOOLER-LIKE
.....AH, WAIT,
UM...
YOU LOOK JUST LIKE A HIGH SCHOOLER
.....
YEAH--
A-ANYHOW, IT TOTALLY SUITS YOU!!
I-I ASKED THEM TO GIVE ME A BOB CUT TO MAKE ME LOOK MORE ADULT...
BUT KIMURA, THE LADY I NORMALLY GET AT THE BEAUTY PARLOUR, HAD THE DAY OFF...
A-AND THE ONLY ONE THERE WAS THIS OLD LADY...
Ooh!! Hihara-chan, a bob cut? Okay! Just leave it to me!
シャキ!
SFX: SHAIIIN
SFX: CHINMARI... (SCRUNCHED UP) PURUPURU (SHAKING)

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T/N: A ZASHIKI-WARASHI IS A CHILD-LIKE YOUKAI (DEMON) THAT OCCUPIES A HOME.

I can never go outside again!
I'm living indoors from now ooooon!!
OH, I CAN'T TAKE IT!
PLEASE, HINAAA!
JUST HOLD THIS FOR A SECOND, WOULD YOU?!!
Y-YOU, TOO, ONEE-CHAAAN?!
WAAA

3-GATSU NO LION VOLUME 9

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